

February 23, 2023

The regular meeting of the County Commissioners of Allegany County was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Allegany Room 100, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, at 5:00 p.m. on the above date. The following were present: Commissioner David J. Caporale; Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.; Commissioner William R. Atkinson; County Administrator Jason M. Bennett; and Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas III.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

MOTION

Commissioner Atkinson requested that an item be added to the Action Agenda for this evening's meeting. Commissioner Atkinson explained that the Canal Place Preservation Authority is seeking \$1,500,000.00 from the Capital Budget to be used as a match for \$6,000,000.00 in federal funds, with all funds to go toward the River Park at Canal Place Project.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and duly carried, Item 10A – Canal Place Preservation Authority – Request for \$1,500,000.00 from the Capital Budget for River Park at Canal Place Project Match was added to the Action Agenda.

There were no further additions or deletions to the Agenda.

MOTION

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson, and duly carried, the Minutes of the February 9, 2023 public business meeting were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

PRESENTATIONS

Item 1 – Fort Hill Football Team 9th State Championship – Zach Alkire, Head Coach of the Fort Hill High School football team, came forward and offered brief remarks and thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak this evening, and for their support. Commissioner Caporale then read and presented him with an official Citation in honor of the team's 9th football state championship. A round of applause followed.

Item 2 – Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization 40th Anniversary – Edward W. Taylor, Jr., President of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, came forward and provided some information and background on his organization, after which Commissioner Caporale read and presented him with an official Citation in honor of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization's 40th anniversary. Mr. Taylor also thanked the Commissioners for their support through the years.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 3 – Application Hearings for Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade, both Design and Construction, and required progress hearings for the Flintstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Locust Grove Sewage Improvements Project, and Garden City Mobile Home Park Partial Acquisition – David K. Nedved, Economic and Community Development Representative, presented background and information for this Item, as set forth on his staff report on the subject dated February 17, 2023, copy of the notice of public hearings that was published in the Cumberland Times-News, and another attachment entitled "public hearings background information". Copies of the staff report, notice of public hearings, and public hearing background information summary are attached to and made a part of these Minutes. Mr. Nedved announced that this evening public hearings would be held for the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, both for design and construction, and for the Flintstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Locust Grove Sewage Improvements Project, and Garden City Mobile Home Park Partial Acquisition. He explained that notice was given in the *Cumberland Times-News* on Saturday, February 18, 2023, that the County Commissioners would sponsor public hearings on these projects, and that they are basically all being funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Mr. Nedved pointed out that for the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, both design and construction, a draft of the CDBG application is available for the public to review and to provide comments beginning Monday, February 20, 2023, until Friday, March 3, 2023, at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, Maryland, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, Maryland, during normal business hours.

The hearings were opened. Mr. Nedved asked for any public comments or questions regarding the projects or about community development, economic development, or housing needs. There being none, the hearings were closed.

ACTION AGENDA

Item 4 – Memorandum of Understanding with Jane’s Place, Inc., Office of the Allegany County State’s Attorney, and Friends of Jane’s Place, Inc. – Board of County Commissioners to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Allegany County, Jane’s Place, Inc., Office of the Allegany County State’s Attorney, and Friends of Jane’s Place, Inc. to memorialize the support of Jane’s Place by Allegany County, the Office of the State’s Attorney, and Friends of Jane’s Place – James F. Elliott, State’s Attorney, appearing at this meeting on behalf of Jane’s Place, asked the County Commissioners to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Jane’s Place, Inc., Office of the Allegany County State’s Attorney, and Friends of Jane’s Place, Inc. He told the Commissioners that Jane’s Place has existed in Allegany County for more than a decade, and that it is a vital and necessary resource for the community. Mr. Elliott provided some background and information about Jane’s Place, pointing out that it provides assistance to children who have been victims of abuse. He explained that the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to ask for financial support from the County, to supplement community support and grant funding, in order to hire, as well as retain, the appropriate people to manage the Jane’s Place facility. Mr. Elliott further explained that the MOU also provides for the State’s Attorney’s Office to manage Jane’s Place and the funds being expended, and provides for the creation of an advisory board for Jane’s Place.

Commissioner Brodie expressed his thanks to Mr. Elliott for spearheading this.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Allegany County, Jane’s Place, Inc., Office of the Allegany County State’s Attorney, and Friends of Jane’s Place, Inc. to memorialize the support of Jane’s Place by Allegany County, the Office of the State’s Attorney, and Friends of Jane’s Place.

Item 5 – Ratification of Second Amendment to Labor Management Agreement with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge# 144 Allegany County Sheriff’s Office – Correctional Division – Board of County Commissioners to approve the Second Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Sheriff’s Correctional Division, FOP Lodge #144 to update wage scale – T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney.

Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas III, presented Items 5 through 10 in place of County Attorney Lee Beeman, who was not able to be present at this evening’s meeting. Mr. Rozas explained that after completion of a wage and salary study by an outside agency, the County Attorney, the County’s Director of Human Resources, and County staff have been working to integrate the new wage scales into the County’s Labor-Management Agreements. He told the Commissioners that Items 5 through 10 are simply for ratification of those wage scales created by the outside agency into the County’s current Agreements with the collective bargaining units.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Second Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Sheriff’s Correctional Division, FOP Lodge #144 to update wage scale.

Item 6 – Ratification of First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement with Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #144 Allegany County Sheriff’s Office – Road Patrol – Board of County Commissioners to approve the First Amendment to Labor Management

Agreement between Allegany County and the Sheriff's Road Patrol, FOP Lodge #144 to update wage scale – T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Sheriff's Road Patrol, FOP Lodge #144 to update wage scale.

Item 7 – Ratification of First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement with 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C – Board of County Commissioners to approve the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C to update wage scale – T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the 911 Emergency Communications Bargaining Unit Local #1521 C to update wage scale.

Item 8 – Ratification of First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement with International Association of Fire Fighters Local #1715 Allegany County Emergency Medical Services Division – Board of County Commissioners to approve the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Emergency Medical Services Division IAFF Lodge #1715 to update wage scale – T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and the Emergency Medical Services Division IAFF Lodge #1715 to update wage scale.

Item 9 – Ratification of First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement with Transit Bargaining Unit AFSCME Local #1633 – Board of County Commissioners to approve the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and Allegany County Transit AFSCME Local #1633 to update wage scale – T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and Allegany County Transit AFSCME Local #1633 to update wage scale.

Item 10 – Ratification of First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement with Roads Division AFSCME Local #1633 - Board of County Commissioners to approve the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and Allegany County Roads Division AFSCME Local #1633 to update wage scale – T. Lee Beeman, Jr., County Attorney.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Board of County Commissioners approved the First Amendment to Labor Management Agreement between Allegany County and Allegany County Roads Division AFSCME Local #1633 to update wage scale.

Item 10A – Canal Place Preservation Authority – Request for \$1,500,000.00 from the Capital Budget for River Park at Canal Place Project Match – Board of County Commissioners to approve allocation of \$1,500,000.00 from the Capital Budget as a match for \$6,000,000.00 in federal funding for the River Park at Canal Place Project, and authorize the President to sign a letter of support regarding this Project. Commissioner Atkinson provided some information about this Item at the beginning of this evening's meeting. A copy of the letter of support is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and duly carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved allocation of \$1,500,000.00 from the Capital Budget as a match for \$6,000,000.00 in federal funding for the River Park at Canal Place Project, and authorized the President to sign the letter of support regarding this Project.

CONSENT AGENDA

As recommended by the County Administrator

Upon Motion by Commissioner Atkinson, seconded by Commissioner Brodie, and Motion carried, the Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator.

Item 11 – Resolution 23-3 – Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development \$350,000 Special Projects Grant Application for the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Design – Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 23-3 for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development \$350,000 Special Projects Grant application for the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Design, and authorized the President of the County Commissioners to sign the grant.

Item 12 – Resolution 23-4 – Cumberland Area Fiscal Year 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program – Board of County Commissioners, acting in their role as the Cumberland Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, authorized and amended, by Resolution 23-4, the Cumberland Area Fiscal Year 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program.

Item 13 – Resolution 23-5 – Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland Amendments – Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 23-5, the amendments to the Rules & Regulations Governing Employees of Allegany County, Maryland.

Item 14 – Tri-County Council (Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund) \$100,000 Grant – Board of County Commissioners approved and accepted the grant terms as prescribed by Tri-County Council for Western Maryland to award \$100,000 to the Department of Economic and Community Development from the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund for the purpose of developing a tech incubator.

Item 15 – Tri-County Council (Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund) \$1,209,000 Grant – Board of County Commissioners approved and accepted the grant terms as prescribed by Tri-County Council for Western Maryland to award \$1,209,000 to the Department of Economic and Community Development from the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund for the purpose of creating market ready pad sites at the Barton Business Park.

Item 16 – Tri-County Council (Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund) \$671,000 Grant – Board of County Commissioners approved and accepted the grant terms as prescribed by Tri-County Council for Western Maryland to award \$671,000 to the Department of Economic and Community Development from the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund for the purpose of developing market ready pad sites at the Frostburg Industrial Park.

Item 17 – Borden Tunnel Lining Restoration Project Award – Board of County Commissioners approved the award of consultant services for Borden Tunnel Rehabilitation – Phase 1, and add Alternate 1, to Whitney Bailey Cox and Magnani, LLC (WBCM), Reston, Virginia, in the amount of \$37,590.

Item 18 – Request for Proposals for Dirt Track Racing at the Allegany County Fairgrounds – Board of County Commissioners approved and granted permission to advertise for proposals for the promotion of dirt track racing at the Allegany County Fairgrounds on the County's website.

Item 19 – Department of Emergency Services Operational Program Medical Director for Allegany County – Board of County Commissioners approved the Personal Services Contract with Rameen Shafiel, D.O., to be the Emergency Medical Services Operational Program Medical Director for Allegany County.

Item 20 – Community Promotions – Board of County Commissioners authorized the County Finance Department to remit \$500 from the Community Promotions Account to support the 3rd Allegany County Social Services Board Crab Feast. All monies raised will be used for Allegany County Seniors to help them remain in their homes and improve their quality of life. The event will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 1 to 5 pm at the Cumberland Outdoor Club Pavilion.

Constituents – In order of sign-up sheet – No one signed up to speak at this evening's meeting.

Assistant County Attorney Ramon Rozas had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

County Administrator Jason Bennett read into the record a letter opposing SB 590, and the Commissioners signed the letter as read by Mr. Bennett. A copy of the letter is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition –

Commissioner William Atkinson had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

Commissioner Creade Brodie spoke in favor of the Commissioners' signing of the letter opposing SB 590.

Commissioner David Caporale had no further comments to make at this evening's meeting.

Reminders/Upcoming Meetings –

Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, March 9, 2023 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

David J. Caporale, President

True Copy
Attest:

Cynthia A. Young
Recording Secretary



Item 3

STAFF REPORT

TO: Jason M. Bennett, County Administrator

FROM: *DK* David K. Nedved, Economic and Community Development Representative

DATE: February 17, 2023

RE: Required Application Hearings for the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Both Design and Construction.

Required Progress Hearings for the Flintstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Locust Grove Sewage Improvements Project, and Garden City Mobile Home Park Partial Acquisition.

For the Agenda of: February 23, 2023

Background: For the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Upgrade, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development the week of March 6, 2022, for a \$350,000 Community Development Special Projects Grant. This would pay for the entire estimated design cost for the project. For the same project, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by the June 9, 2023 deadline for a \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The project cost after design is estimated to be \$4,443,600. The remaining cost is covered by loans and grants from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Also, DHCD has provided two CDBG's for a total of \$1,600,000 for the Flintstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, and four CDBG's for a total of \$2,675,000 for the Locust Grove Sewage Improvements project. Also, DHCD has provided a Special Projects Grant of \$700,000 for Garden City Mobile Home Park Partial Acquisition.

Issues: As part of the process for the Special Projects Grant application and the CDBG application, public hearings must be held for each for public input. In the cases of the projects for the Flintstone Wastewater Treatment Upgrade, the Locust Grove Sewage Improvements and the Garden City Mobile Home Park Partial Acquisition, a requirement of accepting CDBG and Special Projects Grant funding was that public hearings had to be held on the progress of the projects while they are active. These public hearings are required to be held during a Commissioners' Public Meeting and a formal Notice of Public Hearings has to be given at least five (5) days before the hearings. The notice will be advertised in the Cumberland Times-News on Saturday February 18, 2022. The public hearings will be at the February 23, 2023, Commissioners' public meeting.

Financial Impact: If awarded, a Special Projects Grant would cover the \$350,000 design cost and a CDBG would provide \$800,000 towards the construction cost of the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. For the Flintstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project, \$1,600,000 of awarded CDBG's, and for the Locust Grove Sewage Improvements project, \$2,675,000 of awarded CDBG's are at risk if progress hearings are not held. For the Garden City Mobile Home Park Partial Acquisition project, \$700,000 of an awarded Special Projects Grant is at risk if a progress hearing is not held.

Alternatives: None

Other Considerations: N/A

Conformity to County Policy: The County has already expressed support for the Oldtown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project by authorizing on June 7, 2018 a Resolution accepting Community Development Block Grant funding in an amount up to \$40,000 for the Preliminary Engineering Report that was done for the project. Also, the County has put the project in its Capital Improvement Plan for the years 2023-2027 and in its 2018 Water and Sewer Plan.

The County Commissioners have already expressed support for the Flintstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade, Locust Grove Sewage Improvements, and Garden City Mobile Home Park Partial Acquisition by Resolutions to apply for and accept the awarded funds.

Recommendation: Please schedule the CDBG and the Special Projects Grant hearings for the February 23, 2023, public meeting.

cc: Jeffrey S. Barclay, Director – Economic & Community Development
Pamela S. Diaz, Deputy Director – Finance
W. Adam Patterson, Director – Public Works
Mark W. Yoder, – Utilities Division
Whitney M. Daugherty, Engineer – Public Works
Brynn Laird, Engineer – Public Works

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Community Development Block Grant

Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County, Maryland

The Allegany County Commissioners will conduct Public Hearings on the following subjects:

1. To obtain the views of citizens on:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS

2. To offer citizens the opportunity to review application for funds for:

OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE DESIGN

3. To offer citizens the opportunity to review application for funds for:

OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION

4. To offer citizens the opportunity to review the progress of:

a. FLINTSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

b. LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

c. GARDEN CITY MOBILE HOME PARK PARTIAL ACQUISITION

The hearings will be held in the Allegany County Commissioners' Public Meeting Room 100, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, MD, at 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

Citizens will be furnished with information including but not limited to:

- the amount of Community Development Block Grant funds available for the State Fiscal Year 2023;
- the range of activities that may be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant funds; and
- the proposed projects under consideration by the Allegany County Commissioners

For the **OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE DESIGN PROJECT**, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development the week of March 6, 2022, for a Community Development Special Projects Grant. **A draft application will be available for the public to review and to provide comments beginning Monday, February 20, 2023, until Friday, March 3, 2022**, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD.

For the **OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by June 9, 2023, the deadline for a Community Development Block Grant. **A draft application will be available for the public to review and to provide comments beginning Monday, February 20, 2023, until Friday, March 3, 2022**, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD.

The **FLINTSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE**, the **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**, and the **GARDEN CITY MOBILE HOME PARK PARTIAL ACQUISITION** are all being funded partially by Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grants.

Information and records for these projects are available for review at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD.

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program is a federally sponsored program designed to assist governments with activities directed toward neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. The grants are made available on a competitive basis to small political subdivisions not entitled to direct Federal funding.

Community Development Block Grants are provided to the State of Maryland from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Maryland's Community Development Block Grant Program is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program reflects the State's economic and community development priorities and provides public funds for activities which meet one of the following national objectives, in accordance with the Housing Community Development Act of 1974, as amended:

1. Benefit low and moderate income persons and households;
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight;
3. Meet other community development needs of an urgent nature, or that are an immediate threat to community health and welfare.

Efforts will be made to accommodate the disabled and non-English speaking residents with at least three days' advance notice to David Nedved at 301-876-9513.

David J. Caporale, President
Board of County Commissioners
of Allegany County, Maryland

Adv: February 18, 2023

Public Hearings Background Information

for

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS**

OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

FLINTSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

and

GARDEN CITY MOBILE HOME PARK PARTIAL ACQUISITION

Notice was given in the *Cumberland Times-News* on Saturday, February 18, 2023, that the Allegany County Commissioners would sponsor public hearings on the following subjects:

1. To obtain the views of citizens on:

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS**
2. To offer citizens the opportunity to review application for funds for:

OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE DESIGN
3. To offer citizens the opportunity to review application for funds for:

OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION
4. To offer citizens the opportunity to review the progress of:
 - a. **FLINTSTONE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE**
 - b. **LOCUST GROVE SEWAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**
 - c. **GARDEN CITY MOBILE HOME PARK PARTIAL ACQUISITION**

The hearings will be part of the Allegany County Commissioners' Public Business Meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Allegany County Office Building, 701 Kelly Road – Room 100, Cumberland.

The Maryland Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is a federally sponsored program designed to assist local governments with activities directed toward neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. Community Development Block Grant funds are provided to the State of Maryland from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Maryland's Community Development Block Grant program is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The State of Maryland's allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds for FY-2023 was estimated to be \$6,542,585 for Community Development and \$1,215,107 for Special Projects. Funds are made available on a competitive basis to small political subdivisions not entitled to direct Federal funding. The maximum Community Development Block Grant funds available per political subdivision is \$800,000.

The projects meet the National Block Grant objective of providing assistance to low- and moderate-income households; i.e., those below 80 percent of the median income for Allegany County and/or housing related projects. The projects are activities that will not result in displacement. The Allegany County Commissioners, however, have anti-displacement and relocation plans, as required.

The projects are also eligible activities for Community Development Block Grant funds; specifically, they are all for public facilities. The activities that may be undertaken with Community Development Block Grant funds are:

- Acquisition of Real Property
- Public Facilities and Improvements and Privately-Owned Utilities
- Code Enforcement
- Clearance, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Construction of Buildings Including Housing
- Architectural Barrier Removal
- Loss of Rental Income
- Disposition of Real Property
- Public Services
- Payment of the Non-Federal Share
- Relocation
- Planning and Capacity Building
- Program Administration Costs
- Activities Carried Out Through Nonprofit Development Organizations
- Economic Development Assistance to For-Profit Business
- Additional Applicable Requirements—Activities Funded Under Section 105(a) (14), (15) & (17)
- Technical Assistance
- Housing Services
- Assistance to Institutions of Higher Education
- Microenterprise Assistance
- In-Rem Housing
- Homeownership Assistance
- Interim Assistance

For the **OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE DESIGN PROJECT**, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development the week of March 6, 2022, for a Community Development Special Projects Grant. **A draft application will be available for the public to review and to provide comments beginning Monday, February 20, 2023, until Friday, March 3, 2022**, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD.

For the **OLDTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**, the Allegany County Commissioners propose to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by June 9, 2023, the deadline for a Community Development Block Grant. **A draft application will be available for the public to review and to provide comments beginning Monday, February 20, 2023, until Friday, March 3, 2022**, during normal business hours at the Allegany County Department of Economic and Community Development, 701 Kelly Road, Suite 400, Cumberland, MD.



Board of County Commissioners

David J. Caporale, President
William R. Atkinson, Commissioner
Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner
Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Administrator
T. Lee Beeman, Esq., Attorney

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Helen T. Grady
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: River Park at Canal Place

Dear Secretary Grady:

In December of 2022, the Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority (CPPDA) was able to secure a \$6 million federal earmark for the River Park at Canal Place in the Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Bill from the District Six Federal representatives. This Federal award requires a match of \$1.5 million and it is our request that the \$1.5 million match be placed in the FY24 CPPDA operating budget in order to utilize these much-needed funds to push the River Park at Canal Place project forward.

The River Park at Canal Place has the potential to transform Cumberland, Maryland's downtown, support Western Maryland's growing outdoor recreation economy, and drive economic impact in Allegany County and the State of Maryland. Supported by the Allegany County Commissioners, the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland, and the CPPDA, this project has become a top priority for our region.

The project would be located along the North Branch of the Potomac River in downtown Cumberland, MD, and is part of the North Branch Water Trail. The proposed project will complete the North Branch Water Trail system, improve water quality, advance wildlife passages, provide an exciting new downtown river experience, and increase awareness for Allegany County as a premier outdoor recreation destination.

This project, once completed, will include: the removal of an industrial dam, removal of sediments behind the dam, stabilization of the river and restoration to its natural state, the installation of several whitewater features in the river bed for gentle canoe, kayak and/or tubing within the river, on-grade connecting trails, parking, and ADA access to the river. The total cost of the river park project addresses environmental, recreational, tourism, and economic development challenges and opportunities and has been estimated to cost between \$25-\$30 million.

To date, a property boundary survey and hydraulic survey were completed in 2022, and a feasibility study was done in 2020. An RFP was recently awarded to a consulting firm to provide detailed cost estimates for removal of the Cumberland Industrial Dam. These numbers will be available by April of 2023. The River Park at Canal Place will not only create an exciting river experience for Allegany County and the surrounding region but will attract ~~hundreds of~~ thousands of visitors annually to the area.

Cumberland, MD 21502

E countyclerk@alleganygov.org

T 301 777-5911

alleganygov.org

In November of 2022, House Speaker Adrienne Jones visited Canal Place and toured the proposed site of the river park. As a result of the interest from this meeting, a team of representatives from the CPPDA, City of Cumberland, Allegany County Government officials, and representatives from the offices of Senator Ben Cardin's, Senator Chris Van Hollen's and Congressman David Trone's office met with Mollie Byron, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Comptroller, Brooke Lierman, during the Western Maryland PACE Reception in January 2023 in Annapolis to present requests to fund the project. Others met with Delegate Chang, Vice Chair of Appropriations to advocate for the support and funding for the river park.

At this time, we are at the beginning of the engineering and design phase of the on-grade trail system that will connect the River Park project to the C&O Canal Towpath, Great Allegheny Passage, and a new regional trail, the West Virginia Mountain Railroad National Historic Trail in West Virginia.

This request for a \$1.5 million match to be included in the CPPDA's FY24 budget is crucial, as it will allow us to complete this next phase and continue to move this project forward. The timeline for completion of the entire River Park is 2028.

We appreciate your attention to this request and thank you for your consideration. Please contact me by phone at 301-268-7456 or by email at deidra.ritchie@maryland.gov should you have any questions about this transformational project.

Sincerely,

Deidra L. Ritchie
Executive Director
CPPDA



David J. Caporale
President, Board of Commissioners
Allegany County Government

Raymond M. Morrissey
Mayor
City of Cumberland



Board of County Commissioners

David J. Caporale, President

William R. Atkinson, Commissioner

Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner

Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Administrator

T. Lee Beerman, Esq, Attorney

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair
Maryland Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB0590- Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard- Eligible Sources- Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Allegany County Commissioners, duly elected officials representing the residents of Allegany County, a constituent jurisdiction of the State of Maryland, opposes SB 590, "Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023," and urge that it remains in the Committee. This bill, as written, would eliminate the future potential for biomass systems to qualify for "renewable energy credits" with severe implications for forestry, wood waste, and bioenergy operations that will affect the whole of Western Maryland. Woody biomass will play a key role in our region's energy transition, and will guarantee and stimulate the creation of highly skilled and well-paying jobs in the areas of environmental science, forestry, energy, advanced manufacturing and engineering.

In addition, energy derived from woody biomass will secure the health of our forests and help to mitigate environmental disasters, such as the spread of blight and wild fires, by providing a financial incentive to cull problematic tree growth. From speaking with local foresters, it is clear that the closure of the Verso Paper Mill in Luke has spurred a dramatic decrease in the cultivation of low-value, small-diameter wood waste from logging and thinning.

Overgrown forests spread pests and disease, and tree decomposition releases large amounts of methane, which is a significantly denser greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Dry and dead matter also create large swaths of combustible material. Just this month, local volunteer fire crews from across the region, including Allegany and Garrett counties in Maryland, Mineral County in West Virginia and Somerset and Bedford counties in Pennsylvania, worked tirelessly to extinguish two massive brush fires in the areas of Corriganville and Rawlings. Replacing the "pulpwood" demand through woody biomass energy will encourage sustainable forestry practices by providing landowners an economic incentive to keep forests healthy and productive.

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This, in turn, will have a multiplying effect on our region, as increased forest health will attract more innovation and investment in sustainable technologies that utilize the natural carbon cycle that is attributed to the growth of trees. New technologies, such as advanced building materials derived from wood (e.g., cross laminated timber), could flourish in Western Maryland in general and Allegany County in particular.

There is also the threat of losing employment base that is already present in Allegany County to consider. Last year, AES Corporation, who owns and operates the Warrior Run Generating Station in Cumberland, announced its intentions to eliminate coal power from its portfolio by January 2026. The plant, which employs roughly 75 well-paid and highly-skilled workers, will potentially be required to transition to another feedstock, and woody biomass provides an alternative that is local, highly abundant and renewable, ensuring regional energy independence. States such as Vermont and New Hampshire are home to commercial biomass generation and include energy and heat derived from woody biomass on their Renewable Portfolio Standards. Allegany County can provide a model for the rest of the state in responsible and sustainable commercial scale energy generation, using the renewable resources in our own back yard.

Finally, biomass energy is not in competition with wind or solar in Allegany County. Eliminating biomass from the RPS will not encourage facilities to consider wind/solar over biomass, it will help maintain the status quo of fossil fuels. A number of institutional users are currently analyzing replacing their current fuel oil, gas or coal heating systems with modern and highly efficient biomass systems. Wind and solar projects have seen great success in Allegany County and will continue to thrive, however, they cannot efficiently provide the thermal load needed to heat homes and schools during the harsh winters the region faces.

The Allegany County Commissioners respectfully request that the committee members give an UNFAVORABLE REPORT to SB 590 and urge the Committee to continue to look for more sustainable options that encourage a diverse renewable energy portfolio while Maryland divests itself from fossil fuels, becoming energy independent.

In closing, our forests are our greatest renewable resource and deserve a place in Maryland's RPS.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND


David J. Caporale, President


Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner


William R. Atkinson, Commissioner